

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

## Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## New Public Health Laws

Following are the abstracts of some of the new laws pertaining to the public health which were enacted in the 1933 session of the Legislature. Abstracts of other laws pertaining to public health will be published in an early issue of the WEEKLY BULLETIN.

### INSPECTION OF AVIARIES

#### Chapter 607

This is a new law which prohibits selling, trading or bartering shell parrakeets without first obtaining a certificate of registration from the State Department of Public Health. All aviaries and other places where such birds are sold shall be open to inspection at all times. An annual registration fee of \$5 is required, all fees to be paid into an aviary inspection fund which shall be used to pay salaries of inspectors employed by the Department of Public Health to enforce the provisions of the act.

The law further provides that quarantine of such birds shall not be effective for more than 20 days unless examination by the State Board of Public Health determines that one or more of them is afflicted with a disease dangerous to the health of human beings.

The law carries a misdemeanor penalty clause.

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### Chapter 489

This law amends sections of the Vital Statistics

Registration Act. Section 4 of the act is amended to provide that in cities with minimum populations of 5000 the health officer shall be the local registrar and that in those counties where a county health officer acts as city health officer he shall act as local registrar. Were there is a county-wide health department organization, the county health officer shall be registrar for all county territory not included in primary registration districts.

Section 7 of the act is amended to provide for the inclusion upon the death certificate of the essential data specified upon the revised form of death certificate.

Section 8 of the act is amended to provide that when the attending physician is unable to state the cause of death, or where the deceased was killed or committed suicide, or died as the result of an accident, or under such circumstances as to afford a reasonable ground to suspect that his death was caused by the criminal act of another, the certificate of death shall be made by the coroner. It is made the duty of the physician or other person in charge of the body to notify the coroner of such death for investigation and certification. The coroner, furthermore, is required to deliver the death certificate to the attending undertaker within three days after examining the body.

A new section, 8a, is added, making it the duty of the coroner to file with the State registrar a death

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certificate giving the name and statistical particulars which may have been discovered after the filing of the original certificate for the body of an individual who is unknown. The supplementary certificate containing known statistical particulars shall be filed with the original record.

Section 9 removes the requirements that the undertaker shall present the death certificate to the attending physician for signing, providing simply that the certificate shall be signed by the attending physician or by the coroner.

Section 14 of the act is amended to provide for the required information, as specified by the new form of birth certificate.

A new section, 15a, provides that clerks of superior courts shall file with the State registrar all certificates of adoption and that such certificates shall be filed with the original record of birth. Upon request, a certificate of birth shall be issued, bearing the name of the child, as shown in the decree of adoption, names of foster parents, their ages, sex of the child, date and place of birth, but no reference shall be made in any such birth certificate to the adoption of said child.

A new section, 15b, provides that the finding of an unknown child, less than one year of age, shall be reported immediately to the local registrar of vital statistics. Such report shall give specific information relative to sex, color, date and place of finding, including a record of the disposal of the child.

#### MARRIAGES

##### Chapter 105

This law amends section 69 of the Civil Code, so as to prohibit the marriage of a white person with a member of the Malay race.

#### COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

##### Chapter 582

This is a new act which provides for the creation of a State Advisory Commission on Indian Affairs. All of its members are to be appointed by the Governor and all are to act in ex officio capacity. The commission shall consist of one member from each of the following:

State Board of Public Health, Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare, Extension Division of the State College of Agriculture, Department of Anthropology of the University of California.

The commission has authority to investigate, in cooperation with authorized representatives of the United States Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the health, home, economic and social conditions and educational advantages of California Indians and to formulate a constructive program for the improve-

ment of such conditions. The commission shall report to the Governor prior to each regular session of the Legislature. The members shall receive no compensation.

#### PURE FOOD LAW

##### Chapter 758

This law amends various sections of the Pure Food Act of 1907. Most of the amendments provide for the enforcement of the act under the reorganized administration of pure food laws under the State Department of Public Health, and make little or no change in the enforcement of the act with relation to the general public, manufacturers and purveyors of foodstuffs.

Section 3 of the act is amended to provide that the standard of purity of food and liquor shall not be less than that proclaimed by the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and/or by the State Board of Public Health.

Section 6 of the act is amended to provide a definition for the mislabeling of canned tomatoes. It is provided that canned tomatoes labeled "solid pack" must be whole or in fairly large pieces, and that they must be of uniformly good red color and practically free from pieces of stem, cores, blemishes and other defects. They must possess the typical flavor of naturally ripened tomatoes. They must conform to the grades for canned tomatoes established by the United States Department of Agriculture.

#### PURE DRUG LAW

##### Chapter 885

This act amends various sections of the Pure Drug Act of 1907, so as to facilitate its enforcement from an administrative point of view under the reorganization of the State Department of Public Health.

It provides, also, through amendments to section 21, that guaranties to the effect that drugs are not adulterated or misbranded within the meaning of the act must be dated prior to the date of sale of said article.

#### CANNERY INSPECTION

##### Chapter 884

This act amends the Cannery Inspection Law of 1925, increasing the annual license fee for canners from \$10 to \$50. Provision is made for the creation of a Cannery Inspection Board, to consist of five members—the secretary of the State Board of Public Health, who shall act as chairman, the director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, and three men experienced in and with substantial investments in the canning industry, and who shall be appointed



by the State Board of Public Health. Members shall receive no compensation.

It is the duty of this board to estimate the cost of the inspections and examinations prior to the opening of the canning season.

Provision is further made for the payment of costs for such inspection by canners upon a pro rata basis. Nonpayment of pro rata share of the cost is cause for suspension or revocation of license.

A new section provides for the payment of costs for laboratory examinations upon any product packed in violation of the act and provides that any product so packed may be quarantined until laboratory examinations have established that it meets the requirements of the act.

#### EGGS

##### Chapter 290

This act amends section 1145 of the Agricultural Code to require that all food products containing imported egg products shall have stamped on each individual package a statement to the effect that frozen eggs, liquid eggs, dried eggs, or other egg products, as the case may be, imported from without the United States, have been used in the manufacture of the product. Such statement shall be printed in letters not less than one-quarter of an inch in size. Containers in which egg products imported into the State from without the United States shall bear a statement as to their origin in letters not less than two inches high, placed upon the case, or container. All restaurants, hotels, cafes, bakeries, and confectioneries using or serving egg products imported from without the United States must place a sign containing such information in a conspicuous place in their places of business. Such sign must be in letters not less than four inches high.

##### Chapter 380

This act repeals sections 1121 to 1124, inclusive, and sections 1131 to 1133, inclusive, of the Agricultural Code, relating to the storage of eggs.

##### Chapter 423

This act amends section 1105 of the Agricultural Code, relating to standards for eggs. It provides that in the grade of "extras" the air cell need not be localized, and in the grade of "standards" the provision that the air cell may be slightly tremulous is removed.

#### CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

##### Chapter 402

This act provides for standards of quality, condition and/or fill of container, and requirements for

marking of fruits and vegetables, including olives packed in tin or glass containers.

Section 852 of the Agricultural Code is amended to prohibit the canning of olives which are unclean, immature, mouldy, overripe, infested with fungus, rot, or other defects to render the product unwholesome; provides that no fruits or vegetables which are unclean, immature, mouldy, overripe, infested with brown rot, fungus, etc., shall be canned.

The law amends section 871 of the Agricultural Code to provide that the marking of canned fruits and vegetables, including olives, shall be that promulgated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

#### CANNED OLIVES

##### Chapter 716

This law amends sections 860, 861 and 870 of the Agricultural Code and defines the standards and grades of canned olives.

##### Chapter 728

This act amends section 872 of the Agricultural Code and transfers the enforcement of regulations for the canning of fruits and/or vegetables, including olives, from the State Department of Agriculture to the State Board of Public Health.

#### GARBAGE AND REFUSE

##### Chapter 250

Chapter 374b of the Penal Code is amended as follows:

"It shall be unlawful to place, deposit or dump, or cause to be placed, deposited or dumped, any garbage, swill, cans, bottles, papers, ashes, refuse, carcass of any dead animal, offal, trash or rubbish or any noisome, nauseous or offensive matter in or upon any public highway, including any portion of the right of way thereof. Any person, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

Abolition of disease—and we can abolish 80 to 90 per cent of all the physical ills we suffer, outside of accident and old age—abolition of disease is the next great task of civilization. To abolish disease means also to abolish our greatest cause of poverty—there is no single cause, apart from feeble-mindedness, so great in producing poverty as disease. It can be done; only a pacifist attitude of mind induced by centuries of submission to disease as something inevitable permits disease to continue. Now that we have broken the shackles of traditional ignorance, now that we see clearly that we can be free and how to gain our freedom, it is inconceivable that we shall for many years longer bow beneath this needless and, because needless, quite intolerable burden.—H. W. Hill, M.D.



**CALIFORNIA RATTLESNAKES**

A recent article in this publication, pertaining to the emergency treatment of snakebite, referred to two species of rattlesnake in California, the Pacific rattler (*Crotalus confluentus oreganus*) and the Texas rattler, or Desert Diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*). The Curator of the Department of Herpetology of the California Academy of Sciences, Mr. Joseph R. Slevin, has advised through Mr. C. E. Grunsky, President of the Academy, that six other species of rattlesnake are found in California. They are as follows:

*Crotalus confluentus mitchellii*—Bleached Rattlesnake.

*Crotalus confluentus stephensi*—Panamint Rattlesnake.

*Crotalus confluentus lutosus*—Great Basin Rattlesnake.

*Crotalus ruber*—Red Diamond Rattlesnake.

*Crotalus scutulatus*—Mojave Rattlesnake.

*Crotalus cerastes*—Horned Rattlesnake or Sidewinder.

Of these, the Mojave rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutulatus*) is widely distributed throughout the Mojave Desert region. The California Academy of Sciences has made a motion picture, showing all the species of rattlesnake found in California, illustrating the method of extraction of venom and presenting much valuable information relative to these reptiles.

**MORBIDITY\*****Diphtheria**

31 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Humboldt County 1, Los Angeles County 7, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 9, Manhattan 1, Santa Monica 1, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento County 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 4, Santa Cruz 1.

**Chickenpox**

128 cases of chickenpox have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Oakland 11, Los Angeles County 11, Los Angeles 16, San Diego 11.

**Measles**

177 cases of measles have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles County 21, Long Beach 23, Los Angeles 29, San Diego 29.

\* From reports received on July 24th and 25th for week ending July 22d.

**Scarlet Fever**

67 cases of scarlet fever have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles 11.

**Whooping Cough**

276 cases of whooping cough have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Berkeley 13, Oakland 11, Los Angeles County 42, Los Angeles 58, Pasadena 15, Sacramento 10, San Diego 23, San Francisco 10.

**Smallpox**

2 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Glendale 1, Los Angeles 1.

**Typhoid Fever**

8 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 2, Imperial County 1, Los Angeles County 2, San Francisco 1, California 2.\*\*

**Meningitis (Epidemic)**

2 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Santa Rosa 1.

**Poliomyelitis**

5 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Kings County 1, Alhambra 1, Los Angeles 1, King City 1, San Diego 1.

**Dengue**

One case of dengue from Los Angeles has been reported.

**Trichinosis**

One case of trichinosis from Los Angeles has been reported.

**Undulant Fever**

4 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Compton 1, Los Angeles 1, San Bernardino 1, South San Francisco 1.

**Tularemia**

One case of tularemia from Fresno County has been reported.

\*\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.